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USAR

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0061

THE DESPATCH AND LEGALIZATION OF THE AUSTRALIAN WOMAN (1943)

From: WASHINGTON

To: MOSCOW

No: 2505-2512

31 December 42

[8 part message complete]

[Part I]

To [Name No. 42][1].

Herewith material[a] on the despatch [PEREBROSKA][b] and legalization of the "AUSTRALIAN WOMAN[AUSTRALIJKA]"[11].

Part [C% one]

[16 groups unrecovered]

Chiefly

[36 groups unrecoverable]

and demanded

[52 groups unrecovered]

for a month or two it is possible to [3 groups unrecovered] documents. In [4 groups unrecovered] the AUSTRALIAN WOMAN

[32 groups unrecovered]

(establishments[KhozYaJSTVO])[c]

[104 groups unrecovered]

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[6 groups unrecoverable]

presentation of documents, three referees and the completion of a detailed questionnaire including such questions as the names and addresses of previous employers[d], places of residence, particulars of parents, relations, etc, after which all the papers go to the F.B.I. (counter-intelligence) for checking. It is impossible at present for the AUSTRALIAN WOMAN to get work in these establishments.

[Part II]

2. The basic document which gives proof of American citizenship is the birth certificate. The birth certificate does not, as a rule, serve as an everyday means of identification. The ordinary, everyday documents are the driver's licence, the draft registration card (for men) and various passes and identity papers issued by establishments, businesses, companies and firms. The NEIGHBOURS[SOSHD][e] are of the opinion that birth certificates were formerly issued by the churches. Now they are issued by hospitals. Archives of birth records are carefully preserved by the Americans and checking a copy of a birth certificate does not cause the F.B.I. any great difficulty. The driver's licences [2 groups unrecoverable] [B% each] adult. As the name and address of the holder are recorded on it, it also serves as an ordinary, everyday means of identification. Licences are issued by the transport department of the City Police (Traffic Department). To obtain them one has to fill up a short questionnaire giving basic biographical details and present a licence from another state or pass a written examination on the traffic regulations of the city in question and a driving test. An American needs no other papers. The NEIGHBOUR who promised to draw up a birth certificate said the other day that, in view of the postponement of his appointment to CANADA, his opportunities in this respect had come to naught.

[13 groups unrecovered]

posting to CANADA for this purpose. In his opinion it is possible in the last resort to forge a birth certificate at home or simply to do without papers at first.

[Part III]

[29 groups unrecoverable]

The prospects of a new system of documentation being instituted in the USA are uncertain. The F.B.I. insists on registration and on taking[f]

[38 groups unrecoverable]

about 26 million persons have been fingerprinted. These are mainly: aliens (all aliens are fingerprinted), merchant seamen and crews of ships coming here, servicemen, employees and workers in defence plants and government establishments. The issue of fingerprint identifications to [2 groups unrecovered] is becoming popular. A number of TAYLOR's[iii] people had their fingerprints taken in order to get passes into the ports.

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[Part IV]

3. The landing of an illegal[g] from our ship requires careful organization. The "GREENS[ZELENYE]"[iv] keep a watchful eye on our ships and people. During the period from September to December 1942 there were two cases of attempts to inspect two ships for a second time. The following cases are known:

- (a) During the inspection of a ship, the passengers and crew were checked a second time on a trivial pretext.
- (b) There was a personal search of members of a crew going into the city "in order to discover smuggled letters[b]". [2 groups unrecovered] to search

[41 groups unrecoverable]

naval intelligence [3 groups unrecovered] with the object of recruitment. There are repeated cases of our sailors not returning to their ships. Individual members of crews are questioned as to whether there are any outsiders on board.

[Part V]

Contrary to the previous arrangements, the Americans only admit the crews of our ships into the city if they show their passes. They are permanent passes and are kept by the Captain. They are issued to each sailor arriving in the USA for the first time after his fingerprints have been taken. The information[MATERIAL][a] on the pass is checked on departure from the port and on return. The number of check points varies. Crews of ships

[45 groups unrecoverable]

in principle remains as before. All objects brought here which are being taken away[j], packages and letters are inspected.

4. In clothing and appearance, our women [B% serving] on ships are clearly distinguishable from the local women. This is because of their stockings, their berets (American women wear hats), their handbags and their untidiness. They do not take any trouble over their hair or their make-up. Suits or overcoats of medium quality differ little from the American ones.

[Part VI]

5. The possible landing ports are SAN FRANCISCO and PORTLAND. Up to 15 of our ships arrive in PORTLAND each month. 6 to 7 arrive in SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO

Advantages:

- (a) A large city in which it is easy to disappear.

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- (b) Easier to get a hotel room or a [furnished][k] room if necessary.
- (c) Easier to buy a train ticket.
- (d) Less danger of the AUSTRALIAN WOMAN's meeting

[66 groups unrecoverable]

[PORTLAND][k]

Advantages:

- (a) DAVIS[DEVIS][v] can be relied on. His work is such that he sees personally to the ships and is in the port practically all the time.
- (b) If necessary DAVIS can avail himself of the help of our other people there.

Disadvantages:

- (a) The city is small. It would be harder to disappear in it. It is necessary to [2 groups unrecovered] on the day of landing.
- (b) It is harder to get a hotel room and practically impossible to take a [furnished][k] room. Our people have been watched and are well known. It would be more difficult to pass the time until the departure of the train.
- (c) DAVIS is overburdened with his own work.

[Part VII]

6. Sleeper tickets on long distance trains may be bought at the ticket office two or three days in advance. Names and addresses are required when making a reservation. Two or three trains a day leave for NEW YORK. The trip takes up to five days and one must change in CHICAGO. The southern route through NEW ORLEANS should be rejected.

[55 groups unrecoverable]

The press reports that the checking of cars is in force along the west coast, especially around LOS ANGELES and to the south. To combat desertion, the military police check the papers of enlisted men in trains at PORTLAND and SAN FRANCISCO. Civilians are not liable to have their papers checked. Carriages on long distance trains consist of common sleepers and separate compartments - there are compartments for one person (roomettes) and for two or three persons (compartments) and special class compartments (drawing-rooms). In this instance a roomette would be the most suitable. One boards the train 20 to 30 minutes in advance. One can eat in the restaurant car or order in the compartment.

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[Part VIII]

7. Money

The F.B.I. keeps a strict check of all the numbers and series of banknotes. My expenditure is also subjected to checking through the bank. Money received in the homeland by our citizens who come here

[15 groups unrecoverable]

series.

End of part one[1].

No. 745-752

[Name No. 94][vi]

- Notes:
- [a] The Russian word MATERIAL is often used in the sense of "documents" or "documentary material". In this context it appears to mean "information".
 - [b] PEREMOSHKA generally means the transfer of troops or goods from one place to another. In conspiratorial language it means the despatch of an agent to a given country.
 - [c] KhoZYaJSTVO is very difficult to translate out of context. it can mean "economy", "farm", "establishment", "household".
 - [d] Literally "the designations and addresses of previous service".
 - [e] Or "NEIGHBOUR".
 - [f] There is technical evidence that the word after "taking" is "fingerprints".
 - [g] I.e. "an illegal agent".
 - [h] This can either be interpreted as "contraband and letters" or "contraband letters" i.e. "smuggled letters".
 - [j] Literally "all objects being transported, being carried away...". This presumably means "all objects brought here by ship and taken out of the dock area".
 - [k] Inserted by translator.
 - [l] I.e. part one of the material on the despatch and legalization of the AUSTRALIAN WOMAN. There is no indication that part two will be sent later.

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- Comments: [i] [Name No. 42] : Possibly Capt. (1st Rank) M.A. VORONTOV.
- [ii] AUSTRALIAN WOMAN : Probably Francis Yakil'nilna MITTNEY (exact spelling not verified) who is probably identical with Edna Margaret PATTERSON.
- [iii] TAYLOR : Unidentified cover-name. Also mentioned in messages passed between 14/2/1943 and 8/6/1943; the latest message was No. 997 of 8/6/1943 (3/NHF/T1281).
- [iv] GREENE : Members of a non-Soviet counter-espionage agency.
- [v] DAVIS[DEVIS] : Unidentified cover-name. Also mentioned in WASHINGTON's 1248-1241 of 13/5/1943 and 1289 of 5/6/1943.
- [vi] [Name No. 91] : Probably Capt. (1st Rank) I.A. EGORICHEV.
- [vii] NEIGHBOUR : Soviet Intelligence Organization other than that of the Naval Attache.

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